



STATE OF WASHINGTON

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

SPECIAL SESSION FREEZE NOTICE

This notice is a reminder that the legislative session freeze period in RCW 42.17.710 is also in effect during any special session of the Legislature. A detailed notice outlining session freeze dates for the regular session of the Legislature will be issued in early December.

For the upcoming special legislative session on December 5, 2003, the freeze period begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, December 5, 2003, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the day that the special session adjourns.

During this freeze period, no person holding state elected office -- nor anyone employed by or acting on behalf of such an official -- is permitted to solicit or accept contributions to a candidate or public office fund or to retire a campaign debt.¹

The Public Disclosure Commission has implemented RCW 42.17.710, and a Supreme Court decision interpreting the law, by adopting WAC 390-17-400, Time Limit to Solicit or Accept Contributions. Information on WAC 390-17-400 can be found on the PDC website at www.pdc.wa.gov under Guide to the Law.

State elected officials, their campaign workers (including telemarketers or other vendors) or other persons employed by or acting on behalf of state officials are prohibited from doing the following during the freeze period:

- sending fund raiser invitations (even if the date of the event will fall outside of the freeze period);
- sending notice of any type of post-freeze event at which an official would want the option of accepting contributions;
- soliciting contributions via telephone, fax or computer;
- engaging in any other activity that constitutes a solicitation for or acceptance of a contribution (including holding a fund raiser, even if notice of the fund raiser was sent before the freeze began); or
- accepting any monetary or in-kind contributions (including pledges) either in person or via the mail, telephone, fax, the Internet or other means of communication.

¹ Contributions must be in-hand by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2003. Contributions received on Friday, December 5, or on any day during the special session, must be returned even if postmarked earlier than December 5. Pledges must be received no later than December 4, 2003. If the payment of a pledge is not in-hand by December 4, do not solicit or accept payment until after the freeze period is over.

Caucus political committees and other persons who are employed by or act on behalf of state officials are also prohibited from soliciting or accepting contributions during a freeze period if the committee spends the contributions for the benefit of incumbent state officials or known candidates.

"Known candidates" means individuals who are, or who become, candidates for state or local office during a legislative freeze period.

During a freeze period, if state elected officials -- or caucus committee staff or anyone else acting on behalf of state elected officials -- solicit or accept contributions for a political party, caucus political committee or PAC, those funds must be deposited into a separate account and spent in a manner that does not benefit incumbents or known candidates.

Further, during the special session freeze, campaigns are advised not to check post office boxes or otherwise "take possession" of any contribution. However, if this happens, return the contribution within 5 business days of receipt and no potential violation will have occurred.

Once the freeze period is over and any accumulated contributions are actually picked up from the post office box, be sure to report these contributions as being received on the date that the campaign takes possession of them (rather than the check date) in order to show clearly that the contributions had not been received until after the freeze had expired.

Please contact Director of Public Outreach Doug Ellis at (360) 664-2735, toll free 1-877-601-2828, or e-mail at dellis@pdc.wa.gov with questions.